

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 121320 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4919

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1509

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, NP

SUBJECT: DEPSEC VISIT: PROGRAM, SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS

REF: STATE 66735; 67063

1. PROGRAM REMAINS AS STATED OUR 1455 AND 1448, WITH MINIMAL
CHANGES AS INDICATED BELOW, FOLLOWING LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH
GON CHIEF OF PROTOCOL NOON TODAY.

A. ARRIVAL: FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER GON OFFICIALS WILL
GREET VISITORS AT PLANESIDE. NO FORMAL CEREMONY, OR FORMAL
STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER; DEPSEC MAY MAKE STATEMENT IF HE
WISHES; SOME JOURNALISTS MAY BE THERE. FIFTEEN MINUTES ALLOTTED
IN PROGRAM FOR THIS EVENT, PLUS FIFTEEN MINUTES DRIVING TIME
TO GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, SITAL NIWAS.

B. PRE- DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE: PROTOCOL CHIEF SUGGESTS
THAT PRESS CONFERENCE BE HELD AT SITAL NIWAS AT 0715 HOURS
FRIDAY, APRIL 20, RATHER THAN AT AIRPORT. DEPARTURE FROM SITAL
NIWAS WILL THEN BE SCHEDULED FOR 0745 HOURS FOR PREVIOUSLY
SCHEDULED DEPARTURE FROM KATHMANDU AT 0800 . PAO SUPPORTS
THIS SUGGESTION IN VIEW STRONG PREFERENCE LOCAL PRESS CORPS
AVOID AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCES WHICH IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE
GENERALLY PROVED QUITE UNSATISFACTORY IN PART BECAUSE OF CONSTANT
INTERRUPTIONS FROM NOISE OF PLANES TAXIING PAST AIRPORT VIP
ROOM, WHICH IS ONLY PRACTICAL PLACE AT AIRPORT TO HOLD THESE
FUNCTIONS.

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2. MAY WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT CONCURS GENERALLY WITH PROGRAM AS AMENDED IN FOREGOING PARAGRAPH? PROTOCOL IS ANXIOUS TO PRINT OUTLINE OF EVENTS SOONEST AND NEEDS TO KNOW BY APRIL 15.

3. THIS RAISES QUESTION OF WHEN VISIT WILL BE ANNOUNCED. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS REQUESTED OFFICIALLY THAT WE GIVE THEM ADVANCE NOTICE, IF POSSIBLE.

4. ACCOMMODATIONS: WE TOOK ANOTHER LOOK AT SITAL NIWAS THIS MORNING AND IT NOW APPEARS THAT WE CAN HOUSE THE ENTIRE DELEGATION OF 18, REPEAT, 18 (INCLUDING ADDITIONAL SECURITY MAN PER STATE 067539). HOWEVER, THIS WILL REQUIRE SOME DOUBLING UP. WE SHALL BE GETTING SPECIFIC ROOM ASSIGNMENTS TO YOU VERY SHORTLY.

5. VEHICLE ASSIGNMENTS: GON IS PROVIDING FOUR MERCEDES AUTOMOBILES INCLUDING ONE LIMOUSINE FOR DURATION OF VISIT. PROTOCOL PREQUIRES, IN OPINION CHIEF OF PROTOCOL (WHICH WE SUPPORT), THAT MERCEDES LIMOUSINE BE ASSIGNED TO DEPUTY SECRETARY. DRIVER WILL NOT HAVE USG SECURITY CLEARANCE (SEE PARA 6 A(1) OF REFTEL), BUT WILL CERTAINLY BE RELIABLE AND WELL- TRAINED. FURTHERMORE, WE PLAN, PURSUANT STANDING INSTRUCTIONS AND RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH SECURITY AGENT GALUPPO, THAT WHENEVER DEPSEC IS TRAVELLING IN VEHICLE THERE WILL BE US SECURITY AGENT BY DRIVER' S SIDE IN FRONT SEAT, PLUS ANOTHER SECURITY AGENT IN POLICE VEHICLE IN FRONT AND THIRD SECURITY AGENT IN VEHICLE TO THE REAR. GALUPPO FELT THIS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. WE SHALL ASSUME DEPARTMENT CONCURS UNLESS NOTIFIED OTHERWISE. SPECIFIC CAR ASSIGNMENTS TO AND FROM AIRPORT AND DURING OTHER TRIPS AROUND VALLEY WILL BE FURNISHED SEPTEL IN VERY NEAR FUTURE.

6. DRIVING TIMES: (1) AIRPORT TO SITAL NIWAS, 15 MINUTES; (2) AIRPORT TO RESIDENCE, 10 MINUTES; (3) EMBASSY TO RESIDENCE, 3 MINUTES; (4) EMBASSY TO SITAL NIWAS, 7 MINUTES; (5) FOREIGN MINISTRY TO RESIDENCE, 4 MINUTES; (6) FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SITAL NIWAS, 10 MINUTES; (7) SITAL NIWAS TO RESIDENCE, 8 MINUTES; (8) NOTE: PALACE IS ONLY A MINUTE' S DRIVE NORTH OF EMBASSY, I. E., IN DIRECTION OF SITAL NIWAS.

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7. CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION, AND HEALTH: EMBASSY CONSULAR

OFFICER LORTON WILL BE AT PLANESIDE TO RECEIVE PASSPORTS.
ASSUME REILLY WILL HAVE PASSPORTS FOR ENTIRE PARTY. THERE WILL
BE NO IMMIGRATION OR OTHER FORMALITIES FOR MEMBERS OF
PARTY.

8. GIFTS: IN VIEW PARA 11 REFTTEL, WE MENTIONED SUBJECT TO
CHIEF OF PROTOCOL TODAY. PRADHAN RESPONDED THAT SINCE WE HAD
ASKED, HE WISHED INFORM US GON WOULD PLAN SOME SORT OF SOUVENIR
FOR EACH MEMBER OF OFFICIAL DELEGATION. GIFT CONTROL OFFICER
IS RONALD LORTON, CONSULAR AND PROTOCOL OFFICER.

9. EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER IS ROBERT LAMB, EMBASSY ADMIN OFFICER,
HOME TELEPHONE 11117.

10. QUESTION OF FORMAL DRESS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY DINNER (SEE
PUTA 6 OF STATE 67063); IT HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY THAT DINNERS
FOR STATE GUESTS AT COURT OF NEPA HL BE FORMAL AND BLACK TIE,
AND NEPALESE WILL WEAR NATIONAL DRESS. HOWEVER, DARK SUITS
ARE AN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE WHEN BLACK TIE IS NOT FEASIBLE.
LAISE

NOTE BY OCT: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER INSTRUCTIONS S/ S-O, MR WRIGHT.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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